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A Guide to Security IV&V

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May 12, 2005

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Overview

- **Information Security Basics in 5 Minutes**
- **What is Security IV&V?**
- **What to Expect**
- **Next Steps**
- **Security IV&V & PHIN**

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First, A Peak At The Dark Side

← **Before**

After →

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Now, A Less Glamorous Example

- **You terminate system administrator Bob.**
- **You don't disable Bob's account.**
- **Bob connects from home and formats your server.**
- **You have no backups.**
- **You have no data.**

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Start With Some Requirements

Confidentiality

Data

Integrity   Availability

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Calculate Risk

Threat + Vulnerability + Consequence = **Risk**

Key objectives of information security include:

- **Manage Risk – *Minimize* negative *impact***
- **Ensure Trust – Build and maintain *credibility***
- **Avoid Liability – Ensure *compliance* and *due diligence / care***

Controls Reduce Risk!

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Add Some Controls

Management

Operational

Technical

Physical

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An Example

- **Threat:** A Tornado
- **Vulnerability:** The information system is located in only one place
- **Risk:** Tornados are common in Georgia and a serious one could take out the facility thereby destroying research data
- **Control:** Regular, tested backups are performed and tapes are stored off site
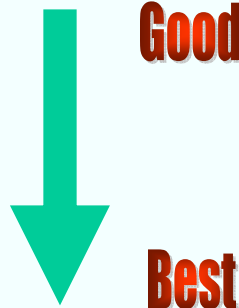
Risk is Reduced!

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The goal of information security is to *cost-effectively* lower risk to an *acceptable* level while working to support organizational objectives

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What Is A Security IV&V?

Independent Validation & Verification

- **Control Review / Technical Vulnerability Scan**

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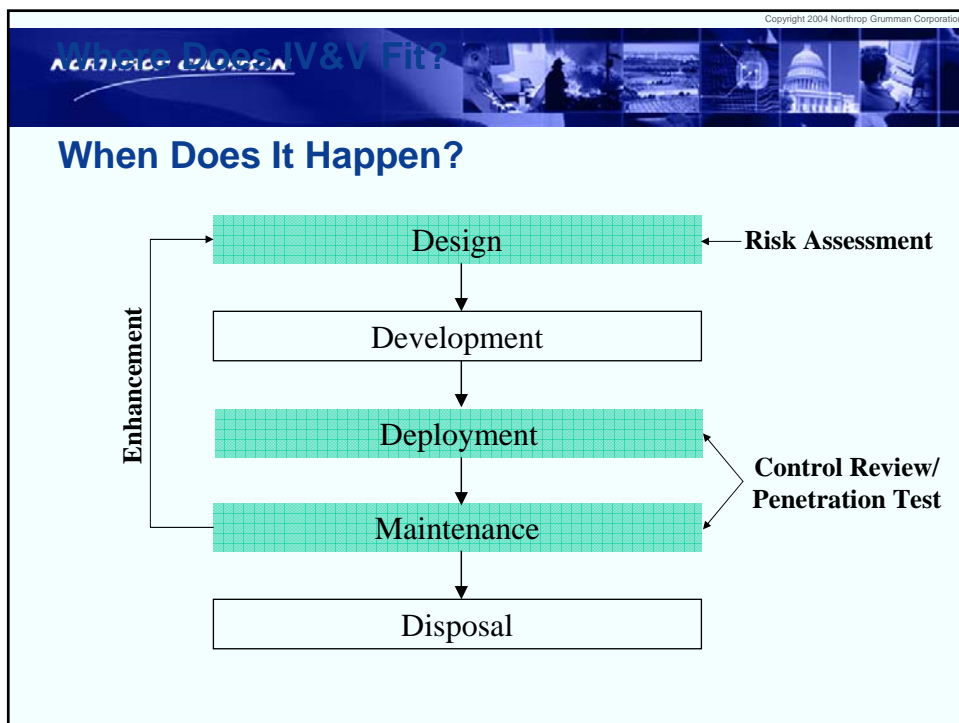- **Formal Risk Assessment**

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- **Penetration Testing**

Good

Best

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What Does It Do?

- **Identifies Risks**
- **Inventories Existing Controls**
- **Verifies Control Effectiveness**
- **Establishes Priorities**
- **Identifies Additional Controls**
- **Monitors for Change**

Where Does IV&V Fit?

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When Does It Happen?

Design ← Risk Assessment

Development

Deployment

Maintenance

Disposal

Enhancement

Control Review/ Penetration Test

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Before The IV&V

- **Approach / Methodology**
- **Background Checks**
- **References**

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During The IV&V

- **Action Plan**
- **Start and End Times**
- **Good Communication**
- **Break Points**

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After The IV&V

- **Report of Findings**
- **Recommendations**
- **Supporting Materials**
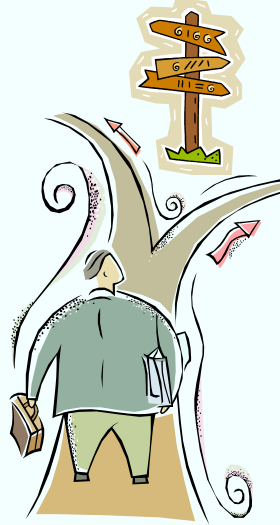- **Material Disposal**

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Potential Snags

- **Identify Systems to be Avoided**
- **Timing of Scans / Attacks**
- **Secure Communication During and After Assessment**
- **Document / Data Destruction Process**

Now What?

- Interpret The Results
- Acknowledge Your Risks
- Develop A Remediation Plan
- Track Your Progress
- Do It Again!

IV&V & PHIN

Security is key to PHIN:

"*External verification of security and continuity processes and technology for public health agencies that support critical information systems should occur on at least a yearly basis.*"

Source: PHIN Standards, Functions & Specifications

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Resources

- **NIST Computer Security Resource Center**

  http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/index.html

- **NSA INFOSEC Assessment Methodology**

  http://www.nsa.gov

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Key Points / Last Thoughts

- **Security is a Process**
- **IV&V Can be an Effective Tool**
- **Results Are Only as Good as the Assessor**
- **Embrace the Process**
- **Know Your Risks – Even if Everything Can't be Addressed**
- **Track Progress and Measure Improvement Over Time**